

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 H-03 L-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 090908Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS TRIM ON IMPORTANCE OF MFN

1. PRAVDA ARTICLE OCTOBER 7 INDICATES THAT SOVIETS MAY BE BEGINNING TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE OF MFN FOR DOMESTIC AUDIENCE IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY NOT BE GRANTED. IN PRAVDA'S WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS POTPURRI, COMMENTATOR (YERMAKOV) SAYS THAT "BY ITSELF DENIAL OF PRINCIPLE OF MFN BY NO MEANS UNDERMINES US-USSR TRADE, FOR WHICH THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS AHEAD". HE NOTES FAVORABLE BILATERAL TRADE PROJECTIONS MADE BY TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ, THEN CITES AMERICAN EXPORTS TO EFFECT THAT "DENIAL OF MFN WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ONLY 20 PERCENT OF SOVIET DELIVERIES TO US".

2. NEVERTHELESS, YERMAKOV CONTINUES, MFN IS "A PRINCIPLE POLITICAL QUESTION" AND ITS RESOLUTION WOULD ENABLE STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIVE MOVEMENTS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY TWO LEADERSHIP VISITS.

3. THIS SOVIET DOWNGRADING OF IMPORTANCE OF MFN PRESUMABLY IS INTENDED IN PART TO REMOVE SPOTLIGHT ON MFN AS A CRITERION FOR THE SUCCESS OF BRAZHNEV'S POLICIES, SO THAT SKEPTICS ABOUT DETENTE IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WOULD BE LESS ABLE TO ARGUE-- IN EVENT MFN IS NOT RECEIVED--THAT BREZHNEV'S PROGRAM HAD FAILED

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TO ACHIEVE CONCRETE GAINS FOR THE USSR. SOVIETS MAY ALSO

HOPE THEIR SHIFT WILL BE HELPFUL TACTICALLY IN CONGRESS, ON
THE GROUNDS THAT SOVIET EQUANIMITY EGARDING MFN MIGHT SEEM TO
REDUCE THE POTENCY OF MFN AS A LEVER ON SOVIET EMIGRATION
POLICIES.
DUBS

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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